



Paper chasers

JULIE and Kevin Stitt, of Dalton, near Barrow-in-Furness, are just two of the many children who have been raising money for spastics. In just one week they collected 3 cwt of waste paper and the money from its sale was given to the Barrow and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society.

(Picture by courtesy of North Western Evening Mail)

Narrow escape in gales for staff member

THE Spastics Society's new Assistant Director of Finance, Alan King, had a narrow escape in the 'edge-of-the-hurricane' gales that devastated the South-east last month.

On a shopping expedition in Dartford he left his car in the local car park and returned to find that it was under a giant tree. Felled by the winds, the tree had broken the upper windows of surrounding buildings in its fall.

'The boot resembled a sardine tin—it was completely flattened. Firemen were climbing all over it trying to discover if anyone was trapped inside. My son Jonathan, 14, had been back to the car at least five times to put shopping in the boot, and if we hadn't been delayed we could all too easily have been in it when the tree fell.

'It doesn't bear thinking about—we were all very lucky,' said Mr King.

... and bless all who ride in her

THE St Austell and District Committee of the Cornish Spastics Society launched an appeal for a mini-bus in February, 1974. In six months £1,889 had been raised, and a service of dedication for the new vehicle has now been held.

The group is also collecting old newspapers to be sold for re-cycling, and this scheme is now bringing in over £150 per month.

It's not just the winners who benefit from Spastics Pool



ANOTHER big win for a Spastics Pool supporter, as Supervisor LN82, Mr A. J. Holmes, hands over a first dividend cheque for £3,777.54 to Mrs J. Howes, of Palamon Court, Coopers Road, London SE1.

Not only do Spastics

MR REGINALD FREESON, Minister for Housing and Construction, promised that 'autumnal events permitting' there would be a major Governmental review of housing for the handicapped. He was speaking at The Spastics Society's South East Regional Conference held at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge.

Criticism

He opened his talk with a criticism of local authorities. They had, he said, made only 1,600 proposals for special new housing units since the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act became law four years ago. 'This is just not good enough,' he told the 100 delegates.

For this reason he had asked local authorities to do much more and said the new Housing Act would help them to do so. But he stressed that despite the help they received in the way of general information from Central Government they must do their own homework in their own areas to assess their particular needs.

Some of these were for

adapting existing dwellings, building what he termed 'wheelchair housing' and building 'mobility housing.'

He added: 'But when we get the background of information that is essential to know what the problems are, we equally need to organise better to deploy all our available resources in the best way. This means good and effective links between the public authorities responsible, especially between the housing departments and social services departments of local authorities. There must be good links also between these authorities and other people involved, particularly

housing associations and voluntary bodies like your own.'

Mr Freeson praised the work of the Society-sponsored Habinteg Association in providing housing for the disabled.

However, he pointed out, not all handicapped people needed such highly developed housing. Only about 4 per cent of the disabled have wheelchairs and only half of these are confined to a wheelchair the whole time. This is where 'mobility housing' came in. Small adaptations to existing housing such as ramps and wider doors would give local authorities more flexibility in allocating

housing stock and would mean the disabled could have homes of their own more quickly.

In his pledge to review the policy and practice of housing the handicapped, he said it might be possible for the Department of the Environment to make arrangements requiring local authorities to consider possible provision of handicapped people at the formative stage of any major housing programme.

The Society's North-West Regional Conference was held in Manchester on Saturday, September 28.

The East Regional conference is to be held at Stevenage on October 12.



THERE were plenty of cuddles all round when men of the RAF at Stafford went along to St Austin's Church Hall to present a cheque for £80 from a sponsored walk to the Mid-Staffordshire Spastics Association.

Picture by courtesy of the Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel

A gift from the stars for Hawksworth

A BEAUTY firm's private jet will fly Cary Grant, David Niven and Roger Moore, Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, to Leeds and Bradford Airport on Saturday, October 5, to present a Variety Club minibus to The Spastics Society's Hawksworth Hall school.

The three stars and the Society's Patron, HRH the Duchess of Kent, will be among a star-studded guest list attending the Leeds branch of the Variety Club's Gala Charity Ball in Leeds on Saturday night. The Ball, in aid of children's charities, is expected to raise £10,000.

New group's plan

A NEW group, the East Staffordshire Spastics Committee, has been formed and already it has a formidable aim—£25,000 to set up a workshop for the physically handicapped young people in the East Staffordshire District.

Magnifique! French exam success for spastic student

DESPITE being heavily handicapped and suffering a fairly severe speech impediment, Declan O'Keefe, aged 20, a former pupil at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, has gained a grade A pass in A level French.

It is the first time a student at the school has gained such a high standard in French.

Declan, who is confined to a wheelchair, left the school with eight O levels, a grade B in English A level, and a distinction in the higher 'S' paper, but he failed history. He had already done half the A level French course and so he continued his studies at

home in Ferrard Street, Dublin. In May he returned to school to cram for his finals and then returned again to sit the examination which included an oral test.

His mother, Mrs Olive O'Keefe, said: 'Getting to Thomas Delarue was wonderful for him and the work that the speech therapists did was tremendous. Now he is looking forward to starting this term at University College, Dublin, where he will read English.'

'He hasn't made up his mind yet what to do—he may go on to read for a Law degree after the Arts degree, or he may decide on translation work.'

Those pounding fists...



Picture by courtesy of Echo and Post Ltd, Hemel Hempstead

...aid Eric's knockout idea

THE fists that flew in the boxing ring settled down to the more peaceful pursuit of clutching a pint of best bitter when five ex-champions met.

They have all retired from the ring but accepted Frank Caswell's invitation to drop round to Hatfield

Conservative Club where he is steward, the night that Eric Boon organised his film show in aid of spastics, recalling great fights from the past.

'It was a great night,' said Mr Caswell. 'Altogether we raised £40 for The Spastics Society.

'Although there was no purse to contend for, the five boxers were only too pleased to turn up, much to the delight of 150 boxing enthusiasts. 'I invited them to come to Hatfield,' Mr Caswell explained, 'because they are all old friends of mine from the days when I used to train boxers myself.'

Left to right our picture shows Watford's Laurie Buxton, former Southern lightweight champion; Jackie Rankin, undefeated Southern area featherweight champ; Allan Buxton, amateur lightweight champ; Eric Boon, British lightweight champ; and Larry Gains, British Empire heavyweight champ.

**Well done.
Gerry**



SPASTICS News recently reported how Mr Gerry McCann, a Belfast spastic who never went to school, had gained a BA degree from the Open University.

The picture above shows Mr McCann, who works for the Ministry of Agriculture, receiving the congratulations of Sir Lionel Russel at the annual Civil Service educational prize-giving.

Picture by courtesy of Sesame

The 'handicap' of that £2 earnings rule

DAVID AKERS is 28 and able to do book-keeping and accountancy, but only part-time. A spastic, confined to a wheelchair, he suffers what he calls: 'Another kind of handicap'—the Department of Health and Social Security's earnings rule which says that people on supplementary benefit may only earn £2 a week.

David lives with his parents at Bromley Road, Horfield, Bristol, has an invalid tricycle in which he travels extensively, and works at Top Ten Promotions Ltd, in Bristol.

He was educated by a home tutor in Lancashire before going to an Open Air School when the family moved to Bristol, and then took two GCE's during two years spent in an orthopaedic hospital. He has been writing since he was seven, and hopes to specialise in writing for the mentally handicapped 'teenager for whom he says there is little suitable reading matter available.

His chief frustration at the moment is the earnings rule which effectively limits his ambition to be financially independent.

He pointed out: 'Someone on supplementary benefit can earn only £2 per week. He may earn, for example, £5 or £10 by his own efforts — and tremendous efforts they can be, too—but the whole amount of any earnings over £2 is reduced by this rule, leaving always a net profit of £2.'

'Much is being said and written about the long-awaited, urgently-needed reconstruction of this part of the Social Services. It is worth remembering that while other levels have been raised—retirement pensioners can now earn over £9 before being penalised and then the penalty is scaled down—supplementary pension-

ers are still shackled to a limit imposed, to my knowledge, at least seven years ago. Where benefits are allocated, limits must follow, but in these inflationary-conscious days, wouldn't £5 be a more realistic ceiling?'

He added: 'The £2 earnings rule creates frustration and humiliation which must be felt by thousands. I became aware just how frustrating when I started a part-time job recently for which I'm paid £4.55 but only benefit by £2.'

He wonders how other disabled people cope with what he calls 'This delicate problem of achieving reasonable financial gain for precious energy expended—without losing too much self-respect.'

Holidays in the Alps for Scouts

THE largest contingent of handicapped Scottish Scouts ever to undertake a camp abroad, including a group from Corseford Residential School for Spastics, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, enjoyed a holiday in Switzerland.

The 50 Scouts, accompanied by a similar number of helpers spent 10 days under canvas at Thun before spending a final few days in Zurich. At Thun normal camping activities were carried out—even by those confined to wheelchairs. Highlight of the holiday was an expedition up the Kander valley to Kanderstag, where the party stayed overnight in Scout huts and from where they were taken up local mountains in chair lifts and cable cars—an exciting new experience for most of the boys.

Much of the cost of the trip was raised by the Scouts themselves. The most successful fund-raising events were a charity climb of The Cobbler (2,891ft) in Argyllshire, and a raffle which raised £2,000 and £1,000 respectively.

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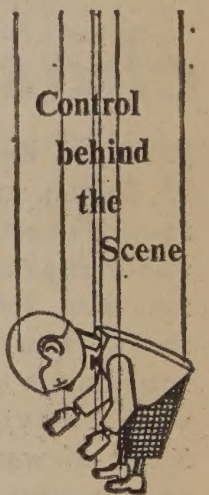
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MRS IRENE ANDERSON, of Arden Road, Beverley, left, receiving a cheque for £1,582 from Beverley jockey Brian Connorton. The presentation took place at Armstrongs Clubroom, Grovehill Road, Beverley, and also present was, centre, Mrs P. Orbidans, the local collector. Mrs Anderson qualified for her win on the first dividend of the Spastics Pool.

Kindness all round made their holiday a success

A LETTER to the promoters of the Spastics Pool early in 1974 resulted in a week's holiday in London for 18 members of the Goole and District Spastics Society. Arrangements for the party, of nine handicapped people in wheelchairs and nine escorts, were made by Norman Fry of Top Ten Promotions and his wife Dorothy.

The first problem of accommodation was overcome when The Spastics Society invited the party to stay at the Society's Family Services and Assessment

Centre at Fitzroy Square, London. The East London Spastics and Handicapped Club and the Spastics Society provided two

Morris, a Spastics Pool collector, gave up a week's holiday and five London policemen gave up their weekly leave days to chauffeur the visitors. Running costs were covered by the Good Neighbours Trust.

The party enjoyed a week that was to include visits to the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, and the Zoo. They also went to the London Palladium to see Debbie Reynolds, saw the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, and had a boat trip up the River Thames, and a shopping expedition. A party to enable the visitors to meet members of

the East London Spastics Group was held at the Canning Town Spastics Centre. Once again, the policemen stepped in, this time to provide the entertainment.

'It was certainly a wonderful week and everyone showed great kindness,' commented Dorothy Fry. 'For example, during the performance at the Palladium a magician called one of the members on stage to assist him with his act. At Buckingham Palace the whole party were given permission to sit inside the railings, and a Guards Officer explained the ceremony of the changing of the guard. It was all great fun.'

Splashes from the Spastics Pool

ambulances to solve transport problems. The next need was for drivers. Bob



AFTER returning from a six-day coach tour of the Lake District and the Trossachs a group of supporters of the Spastics Pool called in at Westmorland House to meet head office staff. Our picture shows the group at the front entrance.



A TWO-DAY conference for regional managers of Top Ten Promotions was held at Westmorland House, Bristol, in September. Our picture shows three of the 10 regional managers talking with, second left, Director Geoffrey Arter. From left to right, Bob Langley, manager for the Plymouth area, David Holman, manager for the Midlands, and Derrick Hoskins, manager for Cardiff.

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Coffee at Cwmbran

A COFFEE evening and display of spastic-made jewellery was held last month at the Cwmbran Work Centre. After a talk by Mr Arthur Dobson, the Society's Homework Manager, £40 worth of goods made by homebound spastics was sold, and orders amounting to £71 were booked.

Monmouthshire Spastics Society made a profit of £28 on the evening plus £20 commission on orders taken.

PRAM PUSHERS...

THE annual sponsored pram-push held at Steeton, Yorkshire, this year brought in £125 for Bradford District Spastics Society.

...AND COLLECTORS

THE Hemel Hempstead and District Group of The Spastics Society raised £981 in a door-to-door collection in Hemel Hempstead, and a further £450 at Berkhamsted.

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Gift from striking dockers

MAINTENANCE workers at Liverpool docks worked through a recent dock strike to shift perishable foodstuffs and essential medical supplies. Together they received a total of £112 for the work, which has now been presented to charity.

Dave Cray, at 17 the youngest maintenance man on the site, handed over the money to Liverpool footballer Ian Callaghan, who has forwarded the cheques to the Liverpool Spastic Fellowship and to a cancer research organisation.



They couldn't resist a ride

CLACTON and District Spastics Society found themselves being taken for a ride when they held their garden fete. For gracing the lawn of St James' Church were two donkeys, Buster and Rocky. Committee members could not

resist having a go, and seated in style in the picture above is secretary, Mr G. Evered, with chairman Mr A. Constable and Mrs Constable, and welfare officer Mrs J. Stevenson, while personality Harold Tayler, who opened the fete, tries his foot at mounting-up.

Harold, who is appearing in a Clacton summer show, was presented with a bouquet by Fiona Stevenson, who attends The Spastics Society's Wilfred Pickles School at Duddington.

'Overpaid' student hands over cash to help spastics

THESE DAYS, when so many people consider they are being underpaid, it is refreshing to hear of someone who thinks he has received too much salary.

Strange though it may seem, however, The Spastics Society is richer by £30 because a young American student decided that his employers had overpaid him by £30 for a holiday job. When he called in at The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre at 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1, and handed over the £30, he refused to give his surname and said: 'Just call me Gary.'

Gary, who is doing a Master's degree in International Relations, said

he had decided to donate the money to The Spastics Society because he passed the Fitzroy Square Centre every day on his way to university and he thought it looked such a nice, friendly building with nice, friendly people coming in and out.

He should go far in his chosen field of International Relations!

She will appeal in Aberdeen



THE new Regional Officer for the Scottish Spastics Appeal Fund in the Grampian Region is Mrs Isabel Phillips, pictured above. Based in Aberdeen, Mrs Phillips will be responsible for organising fund-raising activities and educating the public.

They cycled to buy a camera

PORTSDOWN Ladies Circle, Hampshire, held a sponsored cycle ride which raised £177, plus an additional £18 from a collection. The money will be used to buy a camera for the local cerebral palsy unit which is moving from Cosham to Fareham.

Disabled sports

A FESTIVAL of sport for the disabled was organised at Worthing by the Sussex branch of the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

Demonstrations were given of five-a-side football, sailing, tandem riding, volleyball, wheelchair dancing, table tennis, fencing, carpet bowls, basketball, rifle shooting, archery and golf. Boys from the Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, played an exhibition match of wheelchair football.

Canine aid

THE first-ever dog show in aid of The Spastics Society's Sherrards Training Centre in Hertfordshire raised nearly £200, which will be paid into an amenities fund for trainees at the centre.

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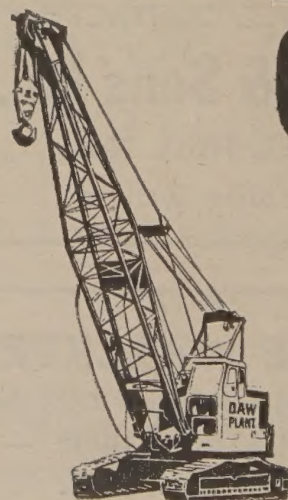
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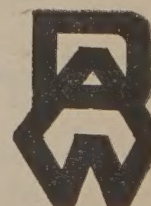
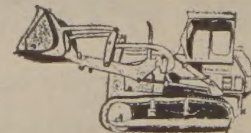
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When will people learn?

THE story in *Spastics News* in September about spastic people being refused taxis pinpoints an experience I had on holiday recently.

I was being seen off on the train by a cousin, and being in a hurry I slipped in the corridor. With a helping hand I was up in a moment, but a man behind me was scandalised on hearing that I was travelling alone. 'God almighty, she can't!' he said. 'Yes she can,' said my cousin. 'Shut the door,' I said, and we were off.

The guard came to me on the journey and told me not to move at the end until I was helped. Evidently he had been tipped off about me. I would have waited anyway, but 'God almighty,' when will people learn we can do things!

MURIEL DELL,
Gladys Holman House,
Rosewarne,
Camborne,
Cornwall.

A picture to show where a hobby can get you...



JOHN RICHARDS, 10, of Patcham, Sussex, has a very special stamp collection in which the most important items were presents from the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton.

John, who is a spastic, met the Mayor, Councillor Danny Sheldon, during an official visit to Patcham House School for physically handicapped children where he is a pupil, and again when the Mayor came to see his Cub Scout group. The two got talking about stamps, and as a result John was invited to the Mayor's Parlour in Brighton.

During the visit he was presented with two 1966 England winners' stamps from a limited issue, and a first-day cover issue of Fire Service stamps.

Picture shows John receiving the stamps from Councillor and Mrs Sheldon.

Picture by courtesy of Brighton Evening Argus

New Welsh guide for disabled

WALES has been put on the map as far as the disabled are concerned with the newly-published 'Disabled Visitors' Guide to Wales.'

Issued free of charge by the Wales Tourist Board, and compiled jointly by the Board and the Wales Council for the Disabled, it has full details of amenities for the handicapped throughout the country.

Hotels are listed with indications of their accessibility and whether or not unaccompanied travel is recommended. Tourist attractions, restaurants, bars, and other facilities are also given the same treatment so that anyone with a handicap can see immediately whether they can cope on their

own, or if assistance is advisable. Some hotels are even prepared to give limited personal help to disabled guests.

The first edition of the guide was presented by Dr Joyce Rowley, chairman of the Council, to Lord Snowdon. In addition to tourist spots and

amenities, the Guide also gives a list of voluntary organisations willing to help and advise the handicapped holidaymaker.

It can be obtained from the Wales Tourist Board, Welcome House, High Street, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YZ.

Farewell to staff members

MR TONY FRANK, The Spastics Society's Assistant Director of Regions, has written a short appreciation of two long-serving employees of the Society who left recently.

Mr Roland Whyte, the North-east's Senior Regional Officer, joined the Society in July 1956 as North Regional Officer after a career in hospital administration. He was promoted to Senior Regional Officer in 1968 and spent all his time in the North and has now left after 18 years' service. He will be very much missed by the groups in the North-east whom he has served.

Mr David Smith came to the Society in 1968 from Caledonian Airways. He served in the South-east and London regions and was promoted to South-East Regional Officer in 1973. He and his wife are now running the Coach and Horses pub in Chichester and he looks forward to meeting many old friends there. His energy and enthusiasm have been an inspiration to the region and he will be greatly missed.

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The Executive Council

Nine candidates are seeking election to The Spastics Society's Executive Council at the AGM in November. There are five vacancies on the 15-strong Council, and those elected will serve for three years. Who are the candidates? How do they see the future role of the Society? What are

their views on major issues? How would they deal with them? Spastics News prepared a brief biography on each candidate, and then asked each one to write an 'election address' setting out the views on which they seek support from voters at the AGM



Ashcroft

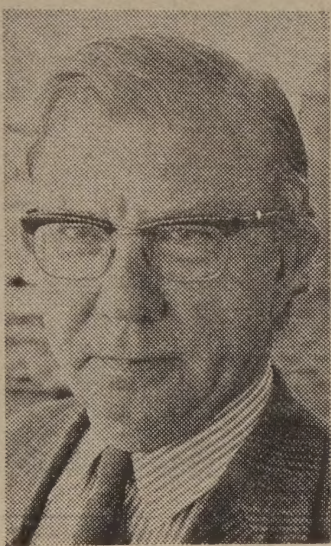
DEREK ASHCROFT, a schoolmaster, of Brighton, Sussex, is a member of the executive committee of the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society, and has been a member of the group for 16 years. He was closely involved with the founding of the parents' group, and was its Chairman for four years. He is also a member of the South-East Regional Co-ordinating Committee. Mr Ashcroft is a governor of three schools.

ONE of the great strengths of our Society is the way in which local groups have developed to help spastics in individual areas. One of the main criticisms that has been levelled at our Society is that a gulf has threatened to grow between the local groups and headquarters. Yet we are all working towards the same end, for the same people, and no group could exist without the support of the central Society.

As a teacher I am particularly interested in education; as a parent of a spastic son, in education in the broadest sense of the handicapped.

In the days of the mass media it is important to communicate as a Society with authority, be it local or national. It is still difficult to get views across or information circulated. This is one of the most important tasks we face.

We need at local level to co-ordinate our efforts and pressures on local authorities. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act has changed the climate radically, and now is the time, in spite of economic strictures, to make sure that the initial impetus is not lost. This is particularly important in the sphere of the school-leaver and adolescent to help them into society for their happiness and our peace of mind.



Bean

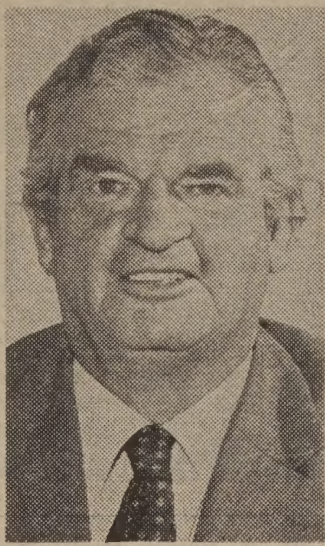
DENNIS BEAN, a retired oil company executive, of Berkhamstead, Herts, is Chairman of the Hemel Hempstead and District Spastics Society, and Chairman of the Hertfordshire Spastics Society. He is a member of the Appeals and Fund-raising Committee, and of the East Regional Co-ordinating Committee. Mr Bean is a former member of the management committees of Sherrards Training Centre and of the Watford group's Treatment Centre.

LIKE all charities which have big financial commitments, the Society must be particularly concerned at the rate at which costs, both capital and revenue, are rising — a problem shared with the nation as a whole.

Add to this our vulnerability to any reduction in our one very direct source of income, and the need for new sources of funds is very apparent.

In my view this implies the need for concentrating efforts on the pioneering role that has been so successful in the past, while bringing increasing pressure on the statutory services to take over the running of existing facilities wherever possible.

This is consistent with the original aims of the Society, but does imply readiness to accept some merging of the interests of spastics and others with similar handicaps. Also, it implies the need for a greater readiness by groups whose resources are not already committed to local projects to support the Society more directly. After all, the image of the Society which is good and greatly assists local fund-raising, is created mainly by our headquarters, and the services provided by most of the Society's national homes and centres are available to spastics from all over the country.



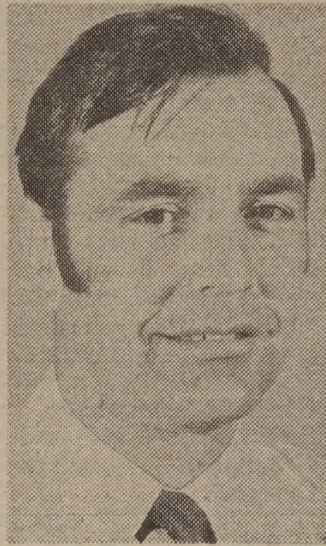
Butler

JOHN BUTLER, a director, of Wimbledon, London, is a member of the Society's Appeals and Fund-raising Committee, and a Director of Spastics Cards Ltd. During his career as a Director of international companies he has travelled extensively throughout the world. Mr Butler is a past Chairman and Vice-chairman of the British National Export Council for New Zealand, and a past-President of the New Zealand Society in London.

NOT only is The Spastics Society well organised, influential and highly regarded, but it presents a series of large and expanding operations. One of the main objectives of the Executive Council will be, I am sure, to enthuse the staff and voluntary workers to co-ordinate their experience and professional skills so that the Society continues as a potent force working in the interests of spastics — and the handicapped generally.

The recognition of the work done can be coupled with an analysis of challenges for the future in a rapidly changing economy, but the objective still remains: how does the Society continue pre-eminent in its field? Here I believe we must make additional major efforts in fund-raising, and apply our skills towards the maximum well-being of spastics. Already the Society's activities in the fields of education, therapy, training, residential care, and diagnosis are doing magnificent work; the volunteers are doing an immense job, and now we must maintain our image and drive as leaders and innovators not only in the UK but abroad, so that our efforts can be recognised and assisted.

Every member of the Council can use their experience and knowledge to assist this great and honourable effort for the future.



Chappell

HEDLEY GORDON CHAPPELL, of Cosham, Portsmouth, has belonged to the Portsmouth and District Spastics Society for eight years, and is a committee member and the group's Publicity Officer. He is senior biology lecturer at Portsmouth Polytechnic College and has a 10-year-old son, Richard, who starts at the Society's Craig-y-Parc school in November.

I HAVE little experience of The Spastics Society other than at local level. As a candidate I offer primarily my energy, enthusiasm and willingness to listen and learn. I suspect the Society is often confronted with difficulties very similar to those which commonly beset spastics.

Co-ordination and Communication. I would work for greater co-ordination and liaison with local groups, and between the Society and other bodies supporting the disabled, particularly at local level.

Perspective. I would support efforts to integrate spastics into the community beginning with schools, and encourage mutual support of families of spastics at local level. It is always difficult to see the problems of spastics in true perspective.

Vision and hearing. So often we are deaf and blind to the very people we wish to help. I would encourage greater involvement of spastics in their own organisation.

Self Fulfilment. I am concerned that the great advances being made in education and training should find continuity at work centres.

Finally, working with the handicapped evolves much emotional energy that is harnessed only with patience and diplomacy. I pledge myself to give encouragement and support to the officers of the Society on whom so many demands are made.



Pereira

MARTIN PEREIRA is 33, unmarried and a solicitor with a City firm. A spastic himself, he lives in London, and is Vice-chairman of the Association of '62 Clubs' Executive Committee. He is one of the youngest-ever candidates to stand for election to the Executive Council.

I AM a spastic myself, but being only lightly handicapped I have not required the services of the Society. For two years I have been associated with the '62 Club movement and I have become increasingly aware of the Society's many achievements. Clearly money, or the lack of it, is a problem at present, but this does not mean that the Society cannot continue to advance.

I feel very strongly that spastics should play a more active role in the affairs of the Society. Progress is being made towards this end, but I feel more needs to be done. Contacts between the Society's staff and spastics should be encouraged and developed.

It is most important to encourage young voluntary workers to help spastics. The young seem especially able to appreciate the difference between help and interference.

There has been a good deal of progress in integrating the handicapped into society, and in providing employment for them. Further progress, however, needs to be made. The Society must strive to ensure that as many spastics as possible can lead full and independent lives.

The Society has achieved much, but it must not become complacent. There is much to be done in the future.



Rigby

PETER RIGBY, a company director, is a magistrate and former Mayor of Hornsey. He is a member of Haringey Council and of the City of London Corporation, and member and Chairman of various schools, governing and public bodies. He is chairman and founder of Hornsey Centre for Handicapped Children and a co-founder of the Habinteg Housing Association. Mr Rigby is Chairman of the Society's Resources Planning Sub-committee and Vice-chairman of the Resources Committee, and also the Society's representative on the Mental Health Film Council.

THE Spastics Society's policy now must be fluid and not rigid. With the rapid changes taking place the Society must take the initiative in fields which in the past were neglected. Basically, the aim must be in broadest terms: 'Quality of life.' With this principle firmly agreed and in mind, improvements in residential centres, appliances, housing, etc, fall into place, the only constraint being financial.

Services offered by the Society to other bodies such as local authorities must be charged at economic cost, and not subsidised.

The Society needs the money to pioneer other fields and to show nationally and internationally, as in the past, its broad care of the handicapped.

Information needed

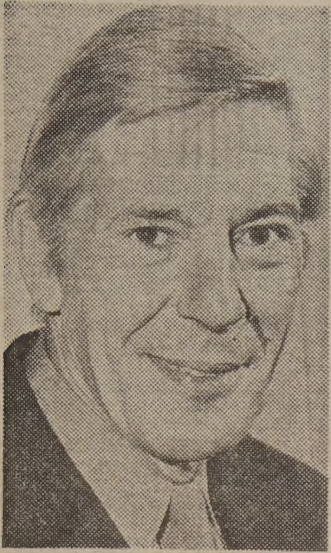
THE National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases has awarded a grant to the Disabilities Design Research Group of the Middlesex Polytechnic. This will enable the group to investigate the design needs of disabled people and to find ways in which to fulfil them.

The group's Research Co-ordinator, Penny Thrift, would be very pleased to hear from any disabled people in the

16-50 age group either living at home or in special accommodation and also from those who help to care for the disabled, who would be prepared to help the investigation by answering some questions.

Anybody who is interested in the project is invited to contact Penny Thrift, Disabilities Design Research Group, Middlesex Polytechnic at Hornsey, Crouch End Hill, London N8 8DG.

Candidates



Moira

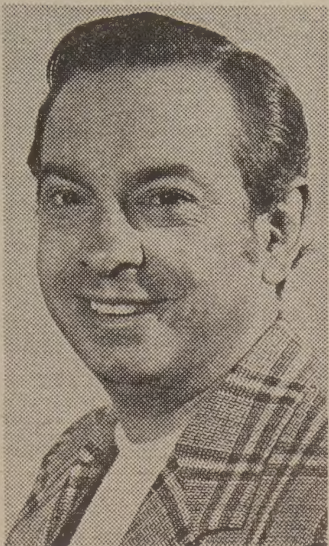
ALEXANDER MOIRA, an architect, of Beaminster, Dorset, was one of the four founders of The Spastics Society in 1952, and has been on the Executive Council ever since. He was Honorary Treasurer for eight years, and has been Vice-chairman of the Society since 1960. He is Chairman of the Resources Committee (he was Chairman of the Services Committee which has been replaced by Resources, for 18 years); a member of the Management Board, a Trustee of the Friends of Spastics League, and of the Sembal Trust, and a special member of the International Cerebral Palsy Society. Mr Moira has been Chairman of the Society-sponsored Habinteg housing scheme since its inception. He is also an Honorary Life Member of the Society. He is the parent of a spastic.

THE Society must make a very special effort not to be deflected from its chosen policies by the present national financial crisis. The Society's role can never be the provision of services for all spastics, that is the task of local and central government, but it is uniquely placed to explore the unsatisfied and the future needs of the handicapped, and to develop the new techniques and services that will be needed.

In order to do this it cannot be burdened with the legacy of its successes in the past, and must be relieved of the responsibility of continuing to run, and in any part pay for, the very many splendid services it has pioneered.

This, then, is the most urgent and immediate task for the Society, firstly to obtain sufficient fees to cover the whole cost of its present services and thereby releasing resources for its development programme, and secondly to pass over to local and central government as much of its present services as is feasible, thereby releasing its highly skilled members and staff for the new ideas and services that are emerging.

MRS SMITH, Mr Moira and Mr Grenier are at present members of the Executive Council and are retiring by rotation in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Society. All have been nominated for re-election.



Grenier

JOHN GRENIER, the Society's Honorary Treasurer, is a chartered accountant, and lives in the City. His cousin is a spastic and his uncle, Mr William Burn, is a former Chairman of The Spastics Society. Mr Grenier became a member of the Executive Council in 1972, having previously served on the Finance and Administration Committee. Here he worked on special projects such as the research and report of the fiscal position of charities in other countries. He became Honorary Treasurer in 1973. He is a member of the Society's Management Board, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Appeals and Fund-Raising Committee.

I CAN add considerable personal experience of spastics to my long working association with the Society. The career development of my cousin, Graham, for instance, has given me first-hand knowledge of the employment aspect of the handicapped.

My children, although not themselves handicapped, attend a school which fully integrates children with quite severe disabilities, including spastics and the totally blind.

My association with the Society began directly through my uncle, Mr William Burn, a former chairman. I have worked as one of a team which established the new Management Board, and the changes in the structure of the Society aimed at further increasing efficiency, and I assisted in the appointments of new executive staff.

I have been involved with the introduction of the latest accounting methods and procedures, which in alliance with the Society's computer can better service the Society at a time of rapid change and roaring inflation. I have also spent much time on Spastics Cards Ltd, with a view to maximising the effectiveness of this operation to provide increasing employment for spastics.

As far as the future is concerned, I feel that costs must be constantly monitored and so ensure that every £ donated is spent to the maximum benefit of the largest possible number of spastics.



Smith

MRS JOYCE SMITH, of Salisbury, Wilts, has been a member of the Executive Council for three years. She is Chairman of the Society's Social Service Committee, and a member of the Management Board, and of the Resources Committee. Mrs Smith, a magistrate, is Chairman of the Salisbury and District Spastics Association, and Chairman of the West Regional Co-ordinating Committee. She is a member of both her district and County Councils, and is Chairman of the committees dealing with social services and special education in Wiltshire, as well as being a school governor.

HAVING been handicapped myself, I readily understand the problems which confront both the handicapped person and their parents. Independence and integration are an asset to us all, so why should the handicapped be denied these two important factors in life?

Many handicapped children are being integrated into primary schools, but the axe seems to fall at 11 years old when too many handicapped children are placed in residential schools. I would like to see more handicapped children being catered for in senior schools with welfare assistance to help them, but inevitably, there are those heavily handicapped children who must attend weekly boarding schools — this should be on a five-day week basis, allowing them to return home at weekends with back-up welfare service to assist families.

There must be varied work opportunities, therefore, training when leaving school is a very necessary step towards future independence.

Special housing units within the community help towards both independence and integration — Habinteg is a good example.

More day care facilities with short stay accommodation for the severely doubly handicapped are also very important. This will enable parents to cope more readily and yet leave them more time to live a normal life.

Thousands of halfpennies add up to a wheelchair

PUPILS of Ball Green Infants School, Hanley, Staffordshire, have collected 3,500 halfpennies since Christmas and, aided by donations from parents, have been able to buy a wheelchair for a spastic child.

Mrs Kathleen Mawman is seen receiving the chair on behalf of the North Staffordshire Spastic Association. Adrian Legan and Ellena Bradley hand over the chair, together with some extra halfpence.

Picture by courtesy of Staffordshire Evening Sentinel



Hopes of record entry for Achievement Award

NOMINATIONS are now coming in for the Society's 1974 Achievement Award and we are hoping for a record number of candidates this year.

We are getting letters from all over the country, drawing attention to the way in which spastics are waging their own particular war of independence, facing up to and overcoming hardships and obstacles that to others might seem completely unsurmountable.

So many aspects of life are covered in the stories—some deal with academic achievements — perhaps just one examination passed by someone once dismissed as inedible—and this can merit just as much consideration for the Award as perhaps an Honours Degree rather more easily obtained. Some detail specific feats, something attempted and done in a short all-out effort. Others maybe taking long and patient years of trying.

Over the past two years it is interesting to note that all the nominees seem to have the same reaction when advised that their name had been put forward by a sponsor—that of complete surprise! Most of them were so busy getting on with the day-to-day business of living that they never stopped to think that their efforts were particularly noteworthy.

By spotlighting some of the individual efforts in this Award, the Society feels that not only will other handicapped people be encouraged but the public will be shown how spastics can, and do, win through, if given the chance.

If you have a candidate you would like to nominate, please send details as soon as possible, either direct to The Spastics Society, 12, Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ (please mark envelope 'Special Achievement Award') or direct to Mrs Nina Heycock, 88/89 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7, who is organising the project on behalf of the Society.

Just to remind you, qualifications are either an outstanding

achievement or sustained personal effort by a spastic in Britain over the age of 12. The first prize is a cheque for £250 and the silver Special Achievement Award Cup. There are also prizes for the runners-up. Closing date for nominations is Saturday December 7, but early submissions are welcome.

Judging will take place early in the New Year.

There will be a panel of well-known personalities who will decide on the winner of the 1974 Award. Two of the judges are Sir Geoffrey Jackson and the Baroness Sharp; other names will be announced in next month's Spastics News.

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Share-out gift from fishermen

LOCAL spastics will be one of the good causes to benefit from the closing down of a gravel pit where Lydd Angling Club used to fish. The club, which had to be disbanded when the pit was bought by a private development company, was left with £2,000 in hand from membership fees. This is to be shared between four local charities including the spastics group, which will receive £500.

Conference on youthful stress

THE National Council for Special Education, Greater London Branch, is holding a one-day conference on 'Handicap, Adolescence and Stress,' on Saturday, October 12, 1974, at the Ethel Cox Hall, College of Fashion and Clothing Technology, London W1.

The conference fee is £1.50 and further details are available from the Branch Secretary, NCSE, Greater London Branch, 53 Westbere Road, London NW2 3SP.

A CALEDONIAN market held at the day centre run by the Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society was attended by about 700 people. The total proceeds of the event amounted to over £300.



Maxi is a gift for Cornish centre

MAXI made a sweet picture when he took part in St Blazey Carnival. Soon he will go to The Spastics Society's new Adventure Holiday and Field Studies Centre at Lanlivery, Cornwall.

Maxi is owned by Tom Stephens who, with his predecessor, Flicka, raised £1,300 for the Assessment Centre at Truro City Hospital.

Tom is giving Maxi to the Lanlivery Centre as soon as it is ready to take him.

In our picture Maxi helps Tom's grandson, Graham, to win the Carnival first prize as a sugar lump. Maxi and Graham's escorts are his parents, William and Patricia.

Picture by courtesy of Madge Charge

'Ask for help' says council

LANBAURGH and Cleveland councils in Yorkshire have jointly spent £1,500 on home extensions to help a couple with a spastic child. Improvements have been made to the family's council bungalow so that the child will have more space for educational and play activities.

The authorities have appealed for more parents with special problems to apply for council help.

Said Councillor Bob Lewis, Chairman of Lanbaugh Housing Committee, 'Some people carry on under great difficulties and this is something the community should help with, if possible.'

Walk they will never forget

MR PETER PRICE, a member of the board of governors for a Sheffield Spastics' School, recently took part in a 170-mile sponsored walk in aid of a hydrotherapy pool for pupils. He was accompanied by Mr Barry Twigg, of Shawell, Leicestershire, with whom he had previously walked along 270 miles of the Pennine Way in a fortnight.

The two men took eight days to complete the sponsored walk in appalling weather conditions, and had to spend one night sleeping in a graveyard. They raised £250 from sponsors towards the cost of the pool.

It's hard work, but Mary is an ambitious girl

BOTH Mary Bennett's father and younger sister, Sarah, aged 21, are primary school teachers, and despite being confined to a wheelchair, it is Mary's ambition, too.

She told of her plans in an interview with Frank Sherman of the **Devon Sunday Independent**.

Mary, 26, lives at The Spastics Society's Princess Marina Centre, at Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, where she is half-way through her Bachelor of Arts Degree with the Open University.

'I wanted to get qualified to take up some kind of job. It is very difficult for handicapped people to get employment and the more qualified they are the better chance they have. Dad put the idea into my head. I had doubts during the course that I had made the right decision—I am still having them. It gets harder and harder every year but I hope I will make it.'

Mary has speech difficulties and needs both hands to control the one finger she uses for typing. When she gets her degree she hopes to try teaching by correspondence.

As well as studying, Mary is fond of travelling. At the age of 19 she went youth hostelling with a younger friend in Germany.

Adventurer

Mary had her luggage strapped to her wheelchair. 'I'm a bit of an adventurer and I'd do anything for a laugh. However, the Germans, at that time, were not very keen on handicapped people and kept them indoors. Then they saw me on the streets—in one place they tried to put me in a hospital.'

'The most frightening experience was in Heidelberg. They said I could not stay in the youth hostel because it would be bad for others.' Eventually they were allowed to stay because they had nowhere else to go. 'It used to upset me quite a bit but I've got hardened to it now.'

And Mary added: 'I don't feel brave. I don't think there is anything brave in going for a holiday. A lot of people say we are brave but I doubt if we are. We are born like this and therefore it is like others being born physically fit. We don't know any other life. We are not even used to it. We don't have to get used to it. We are like this.'

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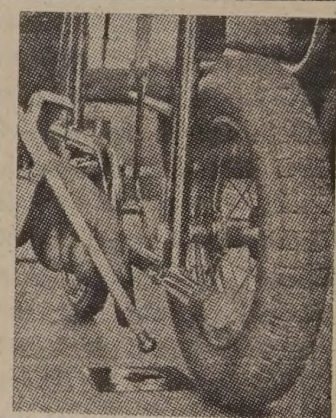
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Appointments at headquarters



MR RODNEY BROOKS, The Spastics Society's new Director of Finance, relaxing aboard his sailing cruiser.

'A challenge' says Director of Finance

RODNEY BROOKS is the new man at the helm of The Spastics Society's finances. Formerly managing director of Tiptree Book Services Ltd, he joined the Society as Director of Finance in July this year.

'I saw an advertisement and I was attracted by the reputation of the Society,' he told *Spastics News*, 'both for the work it does and the way it does it. The Society is very, very complex with very large interests.'

His career

Mr Brooks, a chartered accountant, is 40 and was born at Romford and educated at Palmer's School, Grays, Essex. On leaving school he was articled to Lord Hirschfield and then went on to become Chief Accountant of H. J. Ryman Ltd, and then Chief Accountant at British Olivetti Ltd. His next appointment was as Administration Director of Leisure Arts Ltd, who run Heron Books, before joining Tiptree.

He said, 'One of the chief things that appeal to me about this job is the opportunity to combine ordinary business life with social work. I used to do a fair amount of local church and youth club work, and was in the Civil Defence Corps, but recent business pressures prevented me from doing a lot of social work. This job gives the chance of covering one's social responsibilities while doing one's daily job. The longer one spends with the Society the more one learns its true worth.'

Mr Brooks has already been on a 'getting-to-know-you' study tour and travelled 'goodness knows how many miles' visiting a number of schools and centres. He visited Mel-dreth Manor, Irton Hall and Wilfred Pickles schools, and Sherrards, Thorngrove, Birmingham Sheltered Work Shop, Spastics Cards and Daresbury Hall.

In his new appointment he is responsible for the income, assets and expenditure of the Society. 'Obviously the present economic climate makes the need for up-to-date financial information all the more necessary. Forward planning and budget control become all the more essential—and all the more difficult.'

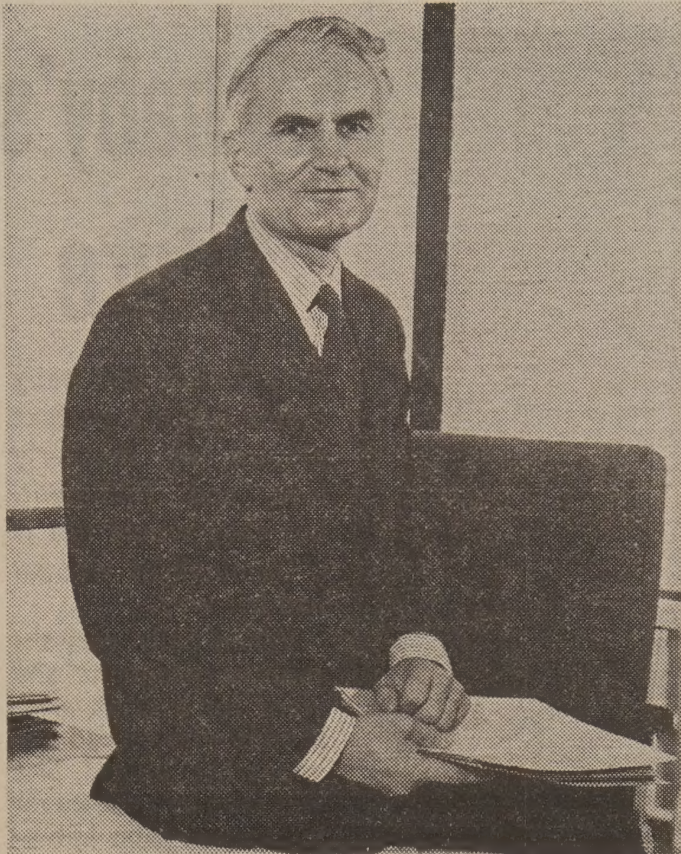
'If you bear in mind the number of collecting points of income for the Society and the different schools and centres where expenditure is incurred—and all these schools—and centres have different assets—it is a great responsibility.'

'It is an interesting challenge where the benefits of the maximum utilisation of the funds of the Society has a great personal effect on a great number of handicapped people. Any additional income or profit or reduced expenditure which you are able to make does not go to buying a new picture for the proprietor, but towards making the life of a handicapped person more bearable, and that's the motivation of the job. The techniques of financial management are the same for this organisation as for a commercial business. The new management structure of the Society will require better and faster management information participation because of the current financial conditions.'

Impressed

He added: 'I'm immensely impressed by the work of the staff in the schools and centres and the quality of everything that's done. Initially one thinks of work done by charity as being done on a cheap and nasty basis. Here the highest standards apply all round. The love, care, discipline and training in appropriate proportions makes for a generally happy atmosphere.'

Away from work, Mr Brooks is a keen sailor, cruising a Snapdragon 24, and is Vice-Commodore of the Tollersbury Cruising Club. He and his wife Daphne have three children, Roland, 16, Karen, 14, and Haidee, 12, and live at Holbrook, near Ipswich, Suffolk.



Mr Tony Diamond

Ex-naval man is Society's Secretary

AFTER a distinguished naval career and experience in the commercial world, Mr Tony Diamond has taken over the reins as Secretary of The Spastics Society.

Tony Diamond was no stranger to the work of The Spastics Society before taking up his appointment as Secretary in May, for his sister Rosemary, a physiotherapist, used to work at a school for handicapped children and appeared in two films on its work, 'Claremont' and 'Back to Claremont.'

War service

Mr Diamond, aged 53, was born in Dorking and on the family's move to Oxford went to St Edward's School. He was a public school entry at the age of 17 into the Royal Navy and served in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the East Indies. He spent two years in HMS 'Warspite' and was first lieutenant of a destroyer before specialising in communications. After the war he took up a number of staff appointments at home and abroad, including Hong Kong, the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean, and commanded the frigate HMS 'Ursa.' His work in the Persian Gulf covered many fields and he was awarded the MBE in the Birthday Honours of 1951. His last Naval appointment was on the NATO staff in Malta.

Before leaving the Navy he qualified by correspondence course as a chartered secretary, and in 1967 on leaving he became a Management Consultant with P-E Consulting Group Ltd. He became Company Secretary and spent another five years with the Group before joining the Society.

Mr Diamond praised the work of his predecessor, Mr Reginald Cumplen, who retires in November after 20 years with the Society. 'Mr Cumplen

staying on has been tremendously helpful. It has allowed me to get round and see a great many schools and centres and it has been most valuable having him to guide me into a complicated organisation.'

Mr Diamond has visited Drummonds, Oakwood, Sherrards, Craig-Y-Parc and Thorngrove, and intends to visit all the main schools and centres in due course.

He explained the reasons behind his decision to take on the job of master-minding the Society's administrative work.

'After a full career in the Services I'd rather be part of an organisation where I was giving service than trying to maximise profits. My aspirations were not to become a managing director in the commercial world!'

Talking of his role as Secretary he said: 'I've been given certain extra duties under the new management structure. I'm going to have a closer link with the Executive Council and, of course, close connections with the new management board. I think I shall be closely involved in personnel policies.'

Family

Mr Diamond lives with his wife Betty and 11-year-old daughter, Alice, in the Berkshire village of Frilsham set in the hills between Newbury and Reading. Mrs Diamond was a WRNS signal officer on his staff in Malta a few years before their marriage. Their eight-year-old son, Colin, died through illness earlier this year.

Gardening leaves him little time to follow his other hobbies of philately and golf, and in addition he is Chairman of his Parish Council and Church Warden. 'I'm also a great walker with a particular interest in preserving rights of way. There are a lot of footpaths which the farmers try and close up. They get very overgrown and it's quite interesting rediscovering them.'

New role for Alan King

ALAN KING, 45, is a familiar face filling a new role. Now Assistant Director of Finance, he joined The Spastics Society in April 1967 as Chief Accountant.

A Londoner, he was educated at Coopers' Company School in the City and on leaving school he joined the well-known City firm of chartered accountants, Binder Hamlyn. He spent 12 years there auditing the returns of companies with diverse interests from women's fashion shoes to racing engines and overseas cattle farms. 'The returns came to London alas—I never got the chance to do them in Paraguay or Turkey,' he recalled ruefully.

He then took up a commercial career as assistant secretary in a company that fought off a take-over battle for two years before finally being sold for £47 million. After his firm was absorbed by a giant in the field, he moved on to a firm of food importers first as company secretary and then as financial controller. He joined the Society as Chief Accountant in 1967.

'In common with a lot of



Mr Alan King

other people I did not realise the size and complexity of the Society.'

Commenting on his new position he said: 'It's a complicated job but interesting. I'm responsible for all the financial division of the Society's work while the Finance Director is responsible for finance matters across the Society as a whole and outside interests.'

His hobbies

Mr King and his wife Ivy live in the Kent village of Eynsford and have two sons, David, 16, and Jonathan, 14. Away from the office his interests are diverse: 'I'm a dabbler with millions of hobbies—swimming, gardening, stamps, coins, photography, chess and music, but none are absorbing and to the exclusion of everything else. We do things as a family and do things we all enjoy.'

Gift to centre from singers



WITH a smile but without a song, Trinity Amateur Operatic Society president Tony Adler, watched by members of the troupe, hands over a special purpose-built chair.

Incorporating special devices and features for spastic children, it was presented to Mrs Florence Nicholson, matron of the Heathbank Day Centre for spastics, Windsor Road, Oldham. The chair was bought with money raised by the Operatic Society members.

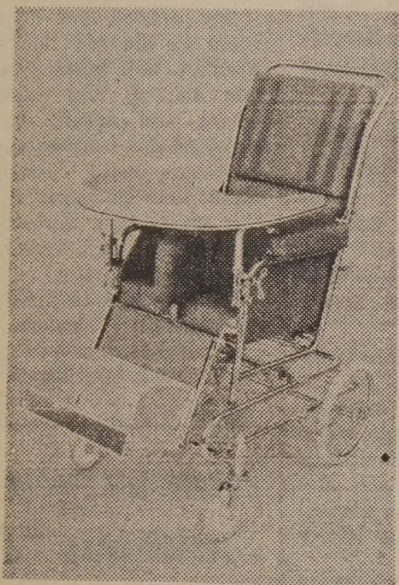
Picture by courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Who would like a pony?

A PONY has landed on the doorstep of the North West's Senior Regional Officer, Mrs Audrey Joyce. Not quite literally but as good as, for a generous pony owner near Preston has offered the pony, worth £80, at a price of £40 providing it goes to a disabled rider. The pony has its own saddle and bridle and is now awaiting a new owner. And Mrs Joyce is appealing to groups in the area who would like it to get in touch with her.

The Avon Chair — a comfortable way to mobility

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My happy memories of London

GREETINGS from Australia! A little over three months ago I left this land down under, travelling by plane to see the sights of a country of which I knew little—but from which my great-grandparents came, many years ago.

Truly I felt just a little strange and a little afraid, wondering what I might find. Need I say I was amazed at the beautiful countryside, the magnificent buildings, yet beyond all, the friendliness of the people.

I came as a stranger to No 16 Fitzroy Square, London, and was given food, rest and shelter, and I would like to express my thanks to all who helped make my holiday so enjoyable. Some day I may return; I would certainly like to, but if not I am blessed, I have happy memories to last a lifetime. How can one ever forget the fascination of London with all its different moods and personalities—the flowers, the parks, and trees, the old architecture? I think I am indeed a very privileged person to have seen it once.

**Ruth Neal,
St Lucia,
Queensland,
Australia.**

Miss Neal is referring to the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, at Fitzroy Square, London, which provides a welcome to many spastics from overseas when they visit Britain.—Editor.

Why Sally is confident about her baby's future



Sally Talbot and baby Emma make a perfect picture of motherly love and fulfilment, but they would not if a Birmingham woman had her way.

When Sally was six months pregnant she went for a drink with friends who teased her about her 'bulge.' She was seen by a customer in the pub who immediately wrote to her local paper, the Birmingham Mail, to say she could not understand why a spastic girl who could scarcely hold a glass with both hands had not been given an abortion or been sterilised.

She added: 'Obviously she could never manage to look after the baby; presumably someone else will have to.'

'It was like someone punching me in the face,' Sally told Maureen Messent, of the Mail, when she heard of the letter.

'Rotten'

'I'm not a moaner but doesn't this woman think that being a spastic is rotten enough without wishing to deprive me of the joys of a baby of my own? Or perhaps she thinks this condition is hereditary. Perhaps she even thought my jerky movements were proof of my being mentally defective?

'She should have checked on the fact that spastics are as they are simply through brain damage, before or during birth, before she wrote that letter. 'Thank God, my parents have been marvellous to me. They didn't exactly congratulate me when I told them I was pregnant, but they made it clear to me that they would always help me out. I live with them and I'm happier than I've ever been before.'

Sally told her story to the Birmingham Mail for a very special reason. 'For the love of Emma and because I would hate the reader to hurt another handicapped person again.

'If she could see Emma when she's in my arms to be fed, she would know what a terrible mistake that letter was.

'I know I'll have a tough time now and then as she grows up. But I love her and I'll do my best for her. My mother will help if I get into deep water at any time.

'I doubt if I will, though.

'You see, I might be a spastic, but first and foremost I'm a woman who always wanted a child.'

Youngsters on the fund-raising trail

AS you will see from some of the pictures in this month's paper, kind-hearted youngsters all over the country were busy raising money for spastics during the long summer holiday. They held jumble sales and garden fetes, ran competitions and collected waste paper.

Fantastic amounts of money were raised, like £25 by two 14-year-old schoolgirls in Norwich and £11.18 by York boys aged nine and 10 with their friends. Five children aged eight to 14 in Ipswich made more than £10, while the same amount was donated to Burnley spastics by two girls aged nine and 13. The youngest of all were perhaps Roger Ward, aged seven, and brothers Philip and John

tition what exciting holidays you have.

You sent in lively descriptions and pictures of foreign travel, swimming, playing on the beach and visits to fun-fairs. What an interesting time you must have had. We hope that one day all spastic children will have the opportunity to enjoy themselves just as much.

Oh, and by the way, if you ever hear any children calling somebody a 'silly spastic,' I hope you will point out what a thoughtless and unkind thing it is to say. Spastics have enough to put up with already, without the name of their handicap being used as a babyish kind of swear-word.

Junior corner

Davies, aged seven and six, who held a jumble sale and raised £8 for the Oldham Spastics Society.

These are only a few of the many generous children who gave up part of their holidays to help us with fund-raising. All this money means that The Spastics Society can go on helping the handicapped in many different ways.

We have heard recently about a 14-year-old boy who had never even seen the sea. With your support, the Society can help him and other disabled youngsters have a holiday every year just like you do. And we know from all the wonderful entries you sent in to our recent compe-

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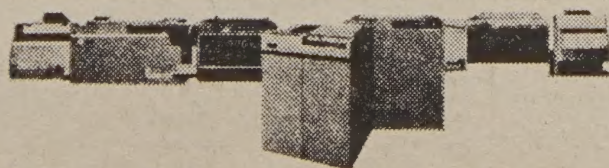
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Disabled young people will find adventure in Cornwall

CORNWALL is pioneering the way in a completely new field to help handicapped young people. Britain's first ever Adventure Holiday and Field Studies Centre, specially adapted and equipped for the disabled, is being established in the county. And the Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Sir John Carew Pole, Bt, DSO, TD, JP—who is also President of the campaign to raise funds in Cornwall for the new centre—launched the project when he laid the foundation stone at Lanlivery in September.

The centre will open up new horizons for hundreds of handicapped children and young adults throughout the country who would otherwise be denied a whole range of activities which most people take for granted. There will be courses in pony trekking, sailing, canoeing, camping, climbing and a whole host of other outdoor activities.

The project will cost about £230,000. Of this £80,000 will be raised locally and, in co-operation with the Cornish Spastics Society, a vigorous fund-raising campaign has been launched. The remaining £150,000 will be raised and contributed by The Spastics Society.

Already Cornish people have rallied round and given or promised £40,000 towards the cost of building the centre. A very generous contribution has been made by Mr Philip Varcoe, Chairman of the Cornish Spastics Society and former County Alderman, who is also Chairman of the fund-raising campaign. He has given 4½ acres of adjoining land towards the new centre, plus £1,000 towards building costs.



PICTURED above: Mr Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources, with the Society's senior architect, Mr Stephen Thorpe, Sir John Carew Pole and Mr

Peter Murrish, the Society's Senior Capital campaigns organiser, a Cornishman who is directing the Cornish fund raising campaign, looking at a model of the finished centre.



PICTURE LEFT: MR PHILIP VARCOE, Chairman of the Cornish Spastics Society, looks on as Sir John Carew Pole taps the foundation stone into place. Sir John said: 'It is not enough to provide treatment, accommodation and work, unless it is to be held that the handicapped have a right, and should have an expectation, of experiencing the full and happy life that stems from the meaningful use and enjoyment of leisure.'

Does Nancy hold the work record?

NANCY EVERINGTON has a problem—what to do with herself now that she has retired. For Nancy, now 63, has just left the Croydon and District Spastics Society's work centre after 17 years, and it is believed she is the oldest and longest serving spastic to have worked in a centre anywhere in the country.

She started work in the Society's handicrafts room as a saleswoman when the centre was run from an old vicarage which was demolished to provide the present centre's site.

Although she is fairly heavily handicapped and gets about with the aid of a wheelchair these days, she has the use of her hands and was always helping those unable to manage by themselves in the dining-room.

On the day she retired, the Rev F. R. Hazel, of St Saviour's, Croydon, attended an informal ceremony when Nancy was presented with a clock and flowers from the work centre staff, and a transistor radio from her fellow workers.

Nancy lives in a residential centre run by Croydon Council.

Fond farewell to Alice

AFTER 18 years Mrs Alice Hoy is also retiring from the Croydon and District Spastics Society's work centre. Although she had no formal training as an occupational therapist, she built up the handicraft

room at the centre to such a standard that demand for the cane work produced there outstrips supply.

She opened the handicraft room in the old building at Bramley Hill when a nursery was started, and when the centre was rebuilt in 1965 many of the trainees chose to continue with handicrafts rather than do assembly work. Her spastic son, Michael, who is heavily handicapped, now works at the centre.

Mr and Mrs Hoy also have a daughter, Maureen. Mrs Hoy's hobbies include gardening and ballroom dancing.

New survey on campus life

THE National Innovations Centre has recently published a survey of disabled students in higher education. This is based on a questionnaire sent out to most of the universities and polytechnics in Britain, and covers such aspects as academic status, libraries, examinations, campus lay-out, accommodation and job prospects. The booklet, costing £1.50p, is available from Research Publications Ltd, Victoria Hall, East Greenwich, London SE10.

Ian is back 'on the road'



THANKS to students of Radcliffe College of Further Education, Manchester, seven-year-old Ian Fescough can go out and play with his friends again.

Ian, who is a spastic, had a pedal car which was his only means of getting about on his own, but when he grew out of it his parents had great difficulty in finding a replacement. They took the problem to the local Social Services Department, who contacted the college.

A team of five trainee fabricators and welders, guided by lecturer Mr Dennis Jewsbury, drew up plans for a new car. They worked on the project for half-an-hour a week over a period of six months.

Now Ian can go out to play once more. He is pictured in his new pedal car while his father, Mr Brian Fescough, drives a more conventional vehicle.

Picture by courtesy of Manchester Evening News

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